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Item 38 of the preliminary list*
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 63/104 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/64/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the handbook entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions,[1] the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[2] The present report, which covers the period from 20 March 2008 to 24 March 2009, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 63/104.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 59 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant General Assembly resolutions:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

Holy See.

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[1] The most recent resolution adopted by the General Assembly on this question is resolution 63/104.

[2] The most recent report is A/63/67.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Algeria

7. In a note verbale dated 18 February 2009, the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following, with regard to scholarships for the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

> The Government of Algeria provides higher education scholarships every year. For the academic year 2008/09, it awarded 197 scholarships for undergraduate studies and 5 for postgraduate studies.
>
> The scholarships for undergraduate studies were granted in the following subjects: political science (27); information and communications technology (12); Islamic studies (12); biology and life science (18); law (37); mathematics/computing (3); languages (38); archaeology (5); Arabic literature (16); engineering sciences (12); veterinary science (3); economics (2); architecture (1); statistics (1); international trade (1); medicine (1); business studies (3); management (1); geosciences (1).

Argentina

8. In a note verbale dated 27 February 2009, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations requested that the following paragraphs be included in the present report:

> The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on Decolonization, have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute, and have requested both Governments to continue without delay the bilateral negotiations recommended by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.
>
> Despite the illegal British occupation, the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, and their inhabitants therefore have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as to the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina.

Austria

9. In a note verbale dated 3 March 2009, the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that although Austria does not offer scholarships specifically for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, students from non-self-governing territories have the possibility to apply for the following scholarships:

- Ernst Mach Grant (worldwide)
- Ernst Mach Grant for students from non-European countries for studying in a full-time programme at an Austrian university of applied sciences
- Franz Werfel Grant for young university teachers of German language and Austrian literature
- Mondi Austria Student Scholarship
- One World Scholarship Programme
- Richard Plaschka Scholarship
- Scholarship Council of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria

For applicable restrictions and information on the scholarships, the website of the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research can be consulted at http://www.grants.at.

Cuba

10. In a note verbale dated 6 March 2009, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General of the scholarships offered by the Government of Cuba to students of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for the period 2009/10. The breakdown is as follows:

1.	Anguilla	Law
2.	Bermuda	Sociocultural studies
3.	British Virgin Islands	Electrical engineering
4.	Cayman Islands	Electrical engineering
5.	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Automatic engineering
6.	Gibraltar	Sociology
7.	Guam	Psychology
8.	Montserrat	Mechanical engineering
9.	New Caledonia	Chemical engineering
10.	Pitcairn	Agricultural engineering
11.	Saint Helena	Electronic engineering
12.	Tokelau	Telecommunications
13.	Turks and Caicos Islands	Civil engineering
14.	United States Virgin Islands	Hydraulic engineering
15.	Western Sahara	Metallurgical engineering

Mexico

11. In a note verbale dated 2 March 2009, the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that:

> Each year, the Government of Mexico offers a scholarship for the residents of the territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau and the Turks and Caicos Islands.
>
> Mexico offers a total of six scholarships to Western Sahara (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic), three of which are granted as part of the Non-Self-Governing Territories Programme, while the other three are granted as part of the Asia, Pacific, Africa and Middle East Programme.
>
> Currently, there is a Saharan studying in Mexico who was given a scholarship for the period from August 2008 to July 2009, with the possibility of extension until July 2010, to study for a master's degree in Education at the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

New Zealand

12. In a note verbale dated 4 March 2009, the Office of the Administrator of Tokelau Ulufakatonu o Tokelau informed the Secretariat that:

> New Zealand provides Tokelau with economic assistance in the form of a three-year Economic Support Arrangement. The current arrangement runs from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2010. The Economic Support Arrangement is intended to place greater responsibility for budgeting in the hands of Tokelau. Funding for discrete activities such as scholarships has been rolled into this overall amount.
>
> In the period under review by the Secretary-General, New Zealand wishes to advise that 45 students have been granted scholarships funded from the Economic Support Arrangement. These include both post-graduate, undergraduate, diploma and foundation courses and cover education, the sciences, law and the arts.
>
> Tokelau has recently taken the decision to begin awarding scholarships for study in Pacific countries such as Samoa and Fiji rather than New Zealand.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

13. In a letter dated 2 March 2009, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations advised the Secretariat that:

> Education in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories is a domestic issue and therefore, under their Constitutions, is the responsibility of the locally elected Overseas Territory Government. It is a matter of domestic policy for each Overseas Territory Government to determine what proportion of their national budgets is spent on study and training.
>
> Citizens of the Overseas Territories, who are also British citizens, have access to the United Kingdom's further and higher educational institutions.

Overseas Territories students are charged the home fee rate for further education and higher education courses at colleges and universities in the United Kingdom. This means that Overseas Territories students are treated equally as students from the United Kingdom.

In addition, the United Kingdom offered three Chevening scholarships (covering education, water waste management and forensic science) to Overseas Territories students in the period 2008/09 as follows:

Territory	Number of students
Anguilla	1
Cayman Islands	1
Montserrat	1

III. Applications made through the United Nations

14. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

15. From 20 March 2008 to 24 March 2009, the Secretariat received no requests from students for information on the availability of scholarships.

IV. Conclusion

16. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.

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Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 10

For the existing list, substitute:

1.	Anguilla	Law
2.	Bermuda	Sociocultural studies
3.	British Virgin Islands	Electrical engineering
4.	Cayman Islands	Electrical engineering
5.	Gibraltar	Sociology
6.	Guam	Psychology
7.	Montserrat	Mechanical engineering
8.	New Caledonia	Chemical engineering
9.	Pitcairn	Agricultural engineering
10.	Saint Helena	Electronic engineering
11.	Tokelau	Telecommunications
12.	Turks and Caicos Islands	Civil engineering
13.	United States Virgin Islands	Hydraulic engineering
14.	Western Sahara	Metallurgical engineering

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Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 11

For the existing text *substitute*

Mexico

In a note verbale dated 29 April 2009, the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that:

> The Government of Mexico has offered to Western Sahara (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic), a total of six scholarships, three of which are granted as part of the Non-Self-Governing Territories Programme, while the other three are granted as part of the Asia, Pacific, Africa and Middle East Programme (APAMO). Currently, there is a Saharan studying in Mexico who was given a scholarship for the period from August 2008 to July 2009, with the possibility of extension until July 2010, to study for a master's degree in education at the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

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Sixty-fourth session
Item 39 of the preliminary list*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/108 A. In paragraph 13 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism.

2. In a note verbale dated 30 January 2009, the Secretary-General brought the resolution to the attention of the Member States and invited them to provide the information requested for inclusion in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above. The information received is out below.

II. Replies received from Member States

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[26 February 2009]

The Permanent Mission of Mexico wishes to inform the Secretariat that the Government of Mexico recognizes the right of peoples to self-determination; for that reason, it has supported, each year, the adoption of the aforementioned resolution, which requests States to comply with the obligations established under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

* A/64/50.

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Russian Federation

[Original: English]
[31 March 2009]

The Russian Federation is actively engaged in facilitating the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted at the initiative of the Soviet Union in 1960.

As a member of the former United Nations Council for Namibia, a participant in the former Special Committee for South West Africa and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Russian Federation made a significant contribution to the achievement of independence by Namibia in 1991.

The Russian Federation carried out a considerable amount of work on Timor-Leste within the United Nations Security Council. As a result of the efforts of the United Nations, Timor-Leste achieved independence in 2002. The Security Council and the United Nations as a whole still continue to play an important role in establishing and strengthening the statehood of an independent Timor-Leste.

As a member of the Trusteeship Council, which dealt with the decolonization processes of many former colonial Territories, the Russian Federation was involved in the decision taken at the start of the First International Decade to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Since the start of its involvement in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Russian Federation has attached great importance to the role of this body and its practical work. The Russian Federation firmly upholds the position that questions of territorial size, geographical isolation or limited resources should not affect the inalienable right of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It is the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in those Territories as would enable their peoples to exercise this inalienable right freely and without interference.

With regard to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Gibraltar, each subject to sovereignty disputes, the Russian Federation holds the view that the search for a definitive solution should be based on negotiations between the relevant Governments.

The policy consistently pursued by the Russian Federation within the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly to settle the question of Western Sahara is that exclusively political means are necessary to end this conflict, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and taking fully into account mutually acceptable conditions for the parties to the model of settlement, without the imposition of any external prescriptions or the establishment of time frames or arbitration procedures.

The decolonization activities of the United Nations and the Special Committee will remain necessary as long as there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories in the world. The principles relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

Colonial Countries and Peoples and United Nations decisions on decolonization, are as relevant today as they were at the inception of the United Nations.

The Russian Federation stands ready to continue to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization for the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[18 March 2009]

The United Kingdom's relationship with its Overseas Territories is a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine if it wishes to retain the link to the United Kingdom.

The 1999 British Government Command White Paper entitled "Partnership for progress and prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" set out the four principles that underline the British Government's relationship with the Overseas Territories. They are:

- self-determination
- mutual obligations and responsibilities
- freedom of the Territories to run their own affairs to the greatest degree possible
- a firm commitment from the United Kingdom to help the Territories develop economically and to help them in emergencies

Those principles remain fundamental to the United Kingdom's relationship with the Overseas Territories. The United Kingdom is committed to the future development and continued security of the Overseas Territories for as long as the Territories choose to retain the link with the United Kingdom. There is regular dialogue between British Government Ministers and Territory leaders on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. The annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council, which provides a political forum for British Ministers and Overseas Territories Premiers, Chief Ministers and their equivalents to discuss issues of topical interest, is now well established. The United Kingdom continues to provide assistance to the Overseas Territories through the provision of technical and logistical support and, in the case of Montserrat, Pitcairn and St. Helena, through budgetary aid.

As the 1999 White Paper pointed out, the United Kingdom's policy towards the Overseas Territories rests on the basis that it is the people of each Territory who determine whether they wish to stay linked to the United Kingdom or not. The United Kingdom has no intention of imposing independence against the will of the people concerned. It has been the established policy of successive British Governments to give every help and encouragement to those Territories where independence is the clearly and constitutionally expressed wish of the people, where this is an option. At this time, the presumption of the United Kingdom Government is that a referendum would be the way of testing opinion in those Territories where independence is an option. But the final decision on whether a referendum is

necessary, and what form a referendum might take, would need to be determined by the United Kingdom, in the light of the particular circumstances in each Territory.

The link between the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories is enshrined in the Constitution of each Territory. Consultation with the Territories at the time of the White Paper showed a clear expression of their wish to retain the connection with the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom concluded that neither integration into the United Kingdom, nor Crown Dependency status, offered more appropriate alternatives to the present arrangements.

The overwhelming majority of decisions in the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories are taken by the Territory Governments in exercise of devolved powers. There is no wish on the United Kingdom's part to micromanage its relationship with the Overseas Territories. But as long as any Territory chooses to remain British, its Constitution must be agreed with the United Kingdom. As part of a constitutional review process launched by the 1999 White Paper, the United Kingdom agreed to consider carefully any proposals for constitutional change made by an Overseas Territory. The constitutional review process has taken the form of a bilateral negotiation, with the scope and pace largely being determined by the Territories themselves. The objective of the negotiations has been to agree on the best possible modern constitutional arrangements that are acceptable to both the Territories and the United Kingdom. While the United Kingdom considers all proposals for constitutional development and change put forward by the Territories, it has also made clear to the Territories during the negotiations that, while the Territory chooses to remain British, the United Kingdom needs to retain sufficient powers to discharge its responsibilities for good governance, defence, external relations, and to meet contingent liabilities and fulfil international obligations applying to the Territories. The reviews also offer the opportunity to bring up to date provisions of the existing Constitutions, such as of the human rights chapters, and to clarify the respective roles of the Governor and local politicians.

There has been progress on constitutional review with most Overseas Territories. New constitutions came into force in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, the British Virgin Islands and Gibraltar in 2007 and, most recently, in the Falkland Islands on 1 January 2009. Constitutional reviews are under way in other Territories (Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St. Helena), and in some negotiations are at a very advanced stage with the expectation that new Constitutions will soon be agreed.

In May 2007 a fourth round of negotiations was held with the Legislative Councillors of Montserrat for a new Constitution for that Territory. Further informal discussions took place on Montserrat in March 2008, at which further progress was made. But work on the redevelopment of Montserrat has now taken priority over the constitutional review talks.

The Cayman Islands Government is engaged in public consultation following the agreement of a new draft Constitution in February 2009 at the conclusion of a negotiating process which began in the Cayman Islands in September 2008. The Cayman Islands Government intends to hold a referendum on the new Constitution on the date of its general election, scheduled to take place on 20 May 2009.

In August 2006, the Anguilla Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission published its report with 147 recommendations relating to the revision of the

Constitution of Anguilla. These are still under consideration in Anguilla. A first round of negotiations with the United Kingdom, scheduled for February 2009, was postponed at the behest of the Government of Anguilla.

The constitutional review process in St. Helena stalled in May 2005, when the people of St. Helena, in a consultative poll, rejected a move to a ministerial system of government as envisaged in the draft constitution. Since then a revised draft constitution without the ministerial government provisions has been prepared as a basis for discussion between the United Kingdom negotiating team and Legislative Councillors on St. Helena in May.

Some commentators have suggested that the United Kingdom should agree to allow Territories the options for status set out in United Nations General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). This identified three options for de-listing (i.e., removing Territories from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories). These were integration; independence; and free association. As already stated, the United Kingdom policy is not to agree to integration; and nor is there any indication that any of the Territories are seeking this. The United Kingdom's position on independence has already been set out.

But the concept of free association, as defined by the General Assembly, would mean that the Territory itself would draw up its Constitution free from United Kingdom involvement. The United Kingdom would retain all responsibility for the Territory, but would not be able to ensure that it had the powers necessary to meet its responsibilities for the Territories. This is not a position the United Kingdom is willing to put itself in.

General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) is not legally binding. Furthermore, the United Kingdom did not vote in favour of the resolution. It believes that the guiding principles for the relationship with the Territory should draw on the Charter of the United Nations. This states, inter alia, that an administering Power shall take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples of its Territories, and assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions according to the particular circumstances of each Territory and its peoples and their varying stages of advancement. The United Kingdom places the utmost importance on these fundamental principles, which are at the heart of the constitutional review process.

The United Nations Declaration on the Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (1970), which elaborates the principle of self-determination, also makes clear that there is an option for the peoples of a Territory in addition to those set out in resolution 1541. It says that the establishment of a sovereign and independent State, free association or integration with an independent State or the emergence into any other political status freely determined by a people constitute modes of implementing the right of self-determination by that people.

This paper has set out the position of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories. The United Kingdom Government considers the existence of the Special Committee of 24 and the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories to be outdated and remains of the view that none of its Overseas Territories should remain on the list.